

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, 12, and 15-29 are pending. Claims 1, 10, 18, and 25 have been amended and claims 3, 5, 11, 13, and 14 have been canceled. Applicants submit that the amendments presented herein raise no new issues requiring further searching or consideration by the Examiner, as the features added by amendment to the dependent claims are based on features in one or more dependent claims that were previously considered. Entry of this paper is therefore respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, claims 25-27 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten into independent form to recite the features of their base and intervening claims. Claim 25 has been rewritten in this manner and claims 26 and 27 were left to depend from claim 25. Applicants submit that claim 25 and its dependent claims are allowable in view of these amendments.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 18-21, 23, 24, and 28 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) for being anticipated by the Inubushi publication. Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that “a first air gap is maintained between an upper surface of the first supporting rib and a lower surface of the upper cover” and that “a second air gap is maintained between all areas of the upper surface of the display module and the lower surface of the upper cover when the upper and lower covers of the mobile terminal are attached.” (See, for example, Figures 5 and 6 for support, wherein the first air gap prevents the lower surface of upper cover 62 from contacting the upper surface of the first supporting rib 78, and wherein the second air gap prevents all areas of the upper surface of display module 54 from

contacting the lower surface of the upper cover). These features are not disclosed by the Inubushi publication.

In contrast to claim 1, the Inubushi publication discloses that the lower surface of case 1 contacts the upper surface of rib 9. (See Figures 2 and 4). Inubushi, therefore, does not disclose the first air gap recited in claim 1. Inubushi also shows that the upper surface of display module 4 is in constant contact with the lower surface of the upper cover and claws 13 in at least two places (see the left and right sides of the display module). Therefore, Inubushi does not disclose the second air gap of claim 1, which is required to be maintained between all areas of the upper surface of the display module and the lower surface of the upper cover when the upper and lower covers of the mobile terminal are attached.

Additionally, the Examiner indicated that claw 13 of rubber sheet 7 provides a thickness above rib 9, such that an air gap is formed between the upper surface of the rib and the lower surface of the case 1. As disclosed in Inubushi, the claws 13 may engage ribs 9 and by the rubber sheet 7 can be integrated with a holder 8. But, Inubushi does not disclose that an air gap is formed between the upper surface of rib 9 and the lower surface of claim 1 by claws 13. Thus, the upper surface of the rib may contact the lower surface of the case when claws 13 deform.

Based on the foregoing differences, Applicants submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable. Claim 18 recites features similar to those which patentably distinguish claim 1 from the Inubushi patent. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 18 and its dependent claims are also allowable.

The remaining claims were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) based on Inubushi taken alone or in combination with Shimazaki.

Claim 10 has been amended to recite that “a second air gap is maintained between all areas of an upper surface of the display module and a lower surface of the first cover when the first cover and the second cover are attached so that, when an external force is applied to the first cover, deformation of the first cover is substantially prevented, thereby preventing damage to the display module.” The Inubushi patent does not teach or suggest these features and neither does the Shimazaki publication.

Applicants therefore submit that claim 10 and its dependent claims are allowable, and that the § 103-rejected claims which dependent from base claims 1 and 18 are allowable at least by virtue of the features recited in the base claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: December 16, 2008

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